



H12 – Foster sow for piglets with reduced growth

It is inevitable that some piglets do not grow as well as the rest of the litter. It is an advantage to move these to a foster sow.

1. A foster sow grows piglets that cannot manage in their own litter.
2. The foster sow is a well-functioning sow, what has weaned uniform vitality piglets and those piglets have moved to the weaning section.
3. The foster sow could be a sow what are going to culled.
4. Reduce the feed dose of the foster sow by 2 FU_{sow}.
5. Move the piglets to a foster sow before they stop growing.
6. Make sure that the foster sow accepts the piglets.
7. Do not use a foster sow for small, but healthy, piglets.



Hungry piglet that should be moved to a foster sow

Don't move:

- a sick piglet. It will infect other piglets. Instead, treat the piglets and provide colostrum.
- healthy piglets if they are small, but still growing.
 - That disturbs the teat order in the litter where they were and where they are moved to.
- a piglet to yet another foster sow if the piglet is not ready to be weaned at the same time as the other piglets of the foster sow.



Sick piglet that should not be moved





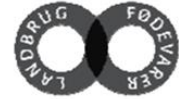
Extra comments – Foster sow for piglets with reduced growth

1. Make a general working routine, when should to do a foster sow. Place a clothes-peg on the sow cards where piglets are showing signs of reduced growth. Make the foster sow when you have used that number of clothes-pegs what one sow can manage. Pay close attention to piglets with reduced growth to make sure you make the foster sow in time (See Appendix 14 - Foster sow).
2. The foster sow must be healthy, have good body condition score, no shoulder lesions and no leg injuries.
3. A foster sow can also be a sow in good body condition and going to be culled. A foster sow may come on heat in the farrowing section, what have no effect for a batch management if the foster sow is going to be culled. For farm productivity, it is an advantage to use young sows as nurse sows that's why you will rarely have enough young sows to be able to use them as foster sows also.
4. Reduce the sow's feed dose by 2 feed units to prevent her to coming on heat or stop eating. Pay close attention to the feed intake of the foster sow and examine for mastitis the first days after making the foster litter.
5. Starvation is often the biggest cause of reduced growth piglets. That's why you must make the foster sow quickly, particularly in the first week after farrowing. After the first week main reasons are sows diseases or not working teats for moving piglets to a foster sow.
6. If the piglets are agitated, and the sow stands up or lies stomach a lot of the time after 24 hours, it could mean, that the foster sow has not accepted the litter. It is also a possibility that the foster sow has stopped milking, in that case consider exchanging litters (See H11 - Exchange of litters).
7. The piglets in a litter may be different sizes. Do not move the piglets if they grow and are vitality on the original litter, but are just smaller than the rest of the litter.





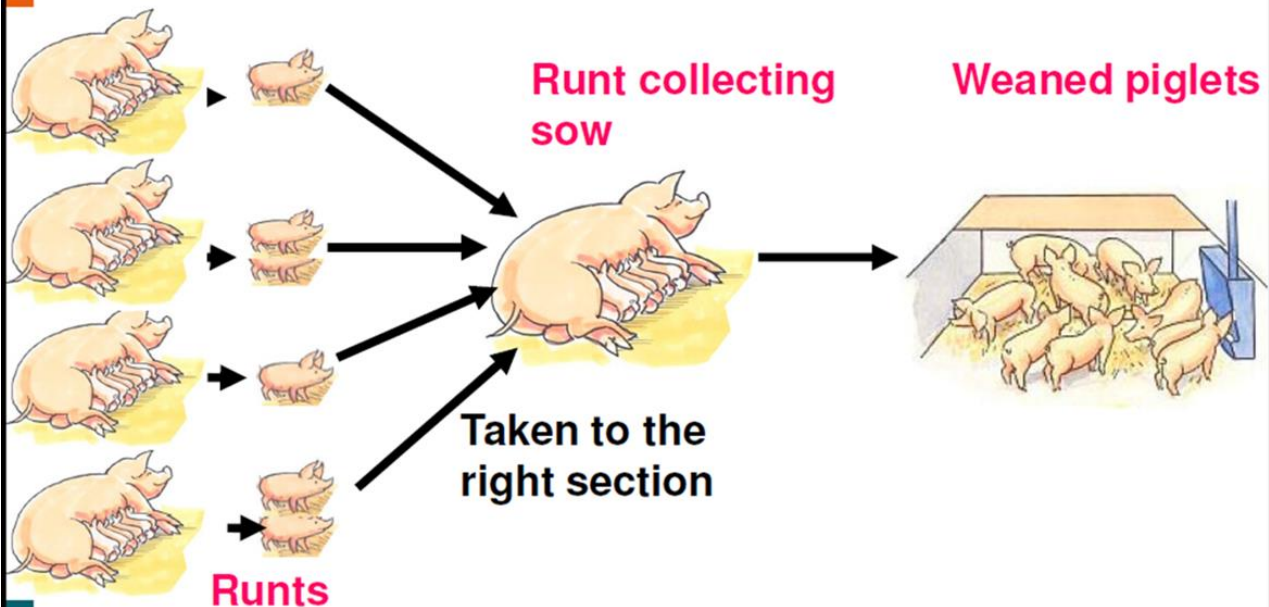
Videncenter for
Svineproduktion



Runt collecting sow

Expect 8 per cent runts

Most runts survive at the collecting
sow



Sows with one or two runts



Euroopan maaseudun
kehittämisen maatalousrahasto:
Eurooppa investoi maaseutualueisiin